(a) how much debt service charges are to be paid during the next financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amount of foreign assistance stands unutilised and even then, we are required to pay debt service charges on such amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The magnitude of debt service payments during 1997-98 on external debt would depend upon floating rates of interest prevailing at the time of payment and principal and interest payment due on fresh disbursements in 1997-98.

(b) and (c) The total amount of undrawn balances on external assistance as on 31.1.1997 was Rs. 46595.67 crores on Government Account. The total commitment charges to be paid on unutilised external assistance on Government Account is estimated to be Rs. 58.38 crores during 1996-97. The commitment charges are payable as per loan agreement, which is based on general conditions governing such loan agreement of the Donor.

Factors responsible for budgetary deficit

2462. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary deficits as on 30.9.96 and 31.12.96;

(b) what have been the major contributory factors for increased budgetary deficit and what have been their respective contributions; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to contain the budgetary deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The budgetary deficit is measured as the excess of total expenditure over total receipts, both on revenue and capital accounts. Because of a mismatch between receipts and expenditure there can be a temporary spurt in the budget deficit during the course of the year but that is not an indicator of the likely year-end position. The budgetary deficit was Rs. 6802 crore and Rs. 7397 crore on 30.9.96-and 31.12.96 respectively. The budgetary deficit in RE 1996-97 has been kept at Rs. 6900 crore.

(c) Government would endeavour to contain the budgetary deficit by increasing receipts and restricting expenditure.

Mobile Banks in Rural and Tribal Areas of Maharashtra

2463. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile banks have been set up by some public sector banks in the rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) details of services being provided by these mobile banks in the State;

(d) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per information available, no mobile offices have been set up by public sector banks in the rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) Reserve bank of India have further reported that it is left to the discretion of the banks to set up mobile offices in their Service Area of rural centres. At present, there are no proposals from banks for opening of mobile offices in Maharashtra.